



## **CITY OF MARIETTA, GEORGIA**

### **OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

## **SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY**

### **STUDENT PROJECT COLLABORATIVE**

#### **HISTORY**

In May 2002, the Mayor and City Council held a strategic planning retreat to discuss an effective and appropriate process for establishing a successful program of citywide redevelopment for Marietta, Georgia. This group of community leaders met to define and build consensus around a “vision” and subsequent set of goals for the local government to achieve the preferred future embodied in the “vision” developed. As part of that process, partner organizations were identified that would play key roles in the redevelopment process, and Southern Polytechnic State University was identified as one of those partner organizations.

During the retreat held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Mayor and City Council identified a number of best practices that could be transferred, adopted and enhanced by the local government. One such best practice was a collaborative effort between the University of Tennessee and the City of Chattanooga, Tennessee, that included a cooperative arrangement in which students of the university engaged in developing conceptual redevelopment planning and displayed their work in a design center. This design center became a focal point for community interest in the potential benefits of redevelopment and by displaying student work, stirred the interest and emotion of the local community building support for redevelopment.

As a result of the retreat the Mayor and City Council developed a number of goals and objectives. One of those goals was to “establish a relationship with Southern Polytechnic State University so that a design center can be established.” Upon their return from the retreat, the City Manager and staff of the local government began to discuss this goal with representatives of the University. After some months of discussion and planning, the Southern Polytechnic State University Student Project Collaborative was created as a partnership between the University and the local government. The Collaborative partners selected the Franklin Road corridor as the first project area for the students to consider, based upon a recommendation of the Marietta Redevelopment Task Force and other on-going efforts of the local government in other corridors of the local community.

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Collaborative shall be a joint effort of the City of Marietta, Georgia, and Southern Polytechnic State University to provide an opportunity for qualified students within the School of Architecture, Civil Engineering Technology and Construction to apply academic learning to projects of interest to the local community. The primary purpose of the Collaborative is to provide hands-on experience for students enrolled in a special course at the University. Other purposes include opportunities for the Collaborators to use student work to create interest and enthusiasm in the greater public for potential community redevelopment projects.

The Collaborative shall be funded and coordinated on behalf of the Collaborators by the City of Marietta's Office of Economic Development at the direction of the City Manager.

## **STRUCTURE**

The Collaborative shall be structured to provide participating students with the broadest, most relevant experience possible by assigning projects to complete over the term of one academic semester. The work accomplished by the students must have academic relevance and be credit earning at the University. Work must also not conflict with the scope of professional services that may be offered to the Collaborators by registered architects within the normal course of community planning and redevelopment.

General project activities may include the study of urban and suburban areas, the generation of design concepts, land parcel usage visions, building concepts, and other approved activities as requested by the Collaborators and approved by the faculty of the University.

## **VISION CENTER AND PUBLIC DISPLAY OF WORK**

A vision center shall be created on the University campus for exhibition of work accomplished by the students. Generally, work of the students shall be conceptual in nature and shall not be used for construction, but rather allow Collaborators and the greater public to visualize potential redevelopment opportunities within the community.

Work of the students shall remain property of the University, but does not preclude Collaborators from receiving copies of drawings and supporting documents. The University shall provide copies upon request in both print and electronic media to the Collaborators.

## **SCHEDULE**

Generally, projects coincide with Spring and Fall semesters, as well as the Summer sessions. The length of the project is flexible, depending upon the needs of the Collaborators. Students are allowed great flexibility in scheduling working hours, but to obtain the most beneficial experience, interns are expected to complete assigned projects within the time schedule agreed upon.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING THE STUDENT PROJECT COLLABORATIVE**

All potential public and private clients who would like to collaborate with our students on a specific project should present the faculty a written proposal minimally outlining the scope of work, site location, potential time schedule, potential users and legal permission, if necessary, for use of any provided drawings. Funds should be provided for the students to purchase any necessary supplies, copies, or special equipment, not to exceed \$1000 without approval of sponsor. If travel is necessary, funds should also be provided for this expense. The students, staff, faculty or administrators of the University will incur no legal liabilities.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET**

The University is to be paid on behalf of participating students for qualified expenses on a reimbursement basis. Receipts and supporting documents are to be submitted to the Office of Economic Development when received, but no less than once per month. Reimbursement will be processed and payment made by the City of Marietta, Georgia to the University thereafter. Reimbursements shall be limited to no more than \$1000 per project as completed on a semester basis, unless approved otherwise.

Requests for funding of project-related travel must be approved prior to the event by the Office of Economic Development and policies related to travel and training used by the City of Marietta shall guide reimbursement thereof.